

Docket No.: SON-2167/CON
(80001-2884)

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Nobuhiro KIHARA et al.

Application No.: (To be determined)

Art Unit: 2872

Filed: November 4, 2003

Examiner: John Juba, Jr.

For: IMAGE-REPRODUCING APPARATUS
AND IMAGE-REPRODUCING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08A is a listing of documents known to Applicant cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in parent application No. 09/906,672; filed on July 18, 2001 in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. The relevance of these documents are explained in the parent application. As provided in 37 CFR 1.98(d), copies of the document are not provided since they were previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in the parent application.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b) before an initial action, no fee is required in connection with its filing.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

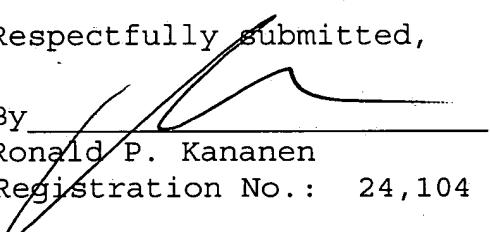
Dated: November 4, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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| Substitute for form 1449/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | |
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| | | | | Filing Date | November 4, 2003 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Nobuchiro KIHARA et al. |
| | | | | Art Unit | 2872 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | John Juba, Jr. |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | SON-2167/CON |

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
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| CA | European Search Report of September 5, 2003 | | | | ✓ |
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